

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A method of assessing colorectal cancer status comprising identifying differential modulation in a combination of genes selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. No. 7-13.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the expression pattern of the genes is compared to an
10 expression pattern indicative of a relapse patient.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the comparison of expression patterns is conducted with pattern recognition methods.
- 15 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the pattern recognition methods include the use of a Cox proportional hazards analysis.
5. The method of claim 1 conducted on primary tumor sample.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the combination includes all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 7-13.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising genes selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID No. 14-28
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8. The method of claim 7 wherein the combination includes all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 14-28.

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising the combination of genes including Seq. ID No. 14-28.

5 10. The method of claim 1 wherein there is at least a 2 fold difference in the expression of the modulated genes.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the p-value indicating differential modulation is less than .05.

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12. The method of claim 1 further comprising a colorectal diagnostic that is not genetically based.

13. A prognostic portfolio comprising isolated nucleic acid sequences, their complements, or portions thereof of a combination of genes comprising Seq. ID No. 6 and genes selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. No. 7-13.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein the combination includes all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 14-28.

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15. The method of claim 13 further comprising genes selected from the group consisting of Seq ID No.14-28.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the combination includes all of the genes of claim 15.

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17. The portfolio of claim 13 in a matrix suitable for identifying the differential expression of the genes contained therein.

18. The portfolio of claim 17 wherein said matrix is employed in a microarray.

19. The portfolio of claim 18 wherein said microarray is a cDNA microarray.

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20. The portfolio of claim 18 wherein said microarray is an oligonucleotide microarray.

21. A kit for determining the prognosis of a colorectal cancer patient comprising materials for detecting isolated nucleic acid sequences, their compliments, or portions thereof of a combination of genes comprising Seq. ID No. 6 and a gene selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. 7-13.

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22. The kit of claim 21 wherein the genes are all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 7-13.

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23. The kit of claim 21 further comprising genes selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID No.14-28.

24. The kit of claim 23 wherein the genes are all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 14-28.

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25. The kit of claim 23 further comprising reagents for conducting a microarray analysis.

26. The kit of claim 23 further comprising a medium through which said nucleic acid sequences, their compliments, or portions thereof are assayed.

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27. Articles for assessing colorectal cancer status comprising materials for identifying nucleic acid sequences, their complements, or portions thereof of a combination of genes comprising Seq. ID No. 6 and a gene selected from the group consisting of Seq. ID. 7-13.

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28. The articles of claim 27 wherein the genes all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No 7-13.

29. The articles of claim 28 further comprising genes selected from the group
10 consisting of Seq. ID No. 14-28.

30. The articles of claim 29 wherein the genes are all of the genes corresponding to Seq ID No. 14-28.

15 31. A kit for assessing colorectal cancer comprising reagents for detecting the expression Seq. ID No. 7-13.

32. The kit of claim 31 further comprising reagents for the detecting the expression of Seq. ID No. 14-28.

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33. A method of treating a colorectal cancer patient comprising characterizing the patient as high risk for recurrence or not based on the expression of genes having Seq ID No. 7-28 and treating the patient with adjuvant therapy if they are a high risk patient.